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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR  
1945

Also the ANNUAL REPORT of the  
Sanitary Inspector  
G. H. WILKINSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ROGER & RENNICK.  
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# STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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DOROTHY M. JAMES,  
M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### *SANITARY INSPECTOR :*

G. H. WILKINSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

*Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

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August, 1946.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report for the year 1945.

As in the previous year, the Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular. All Civil Defence Services were disbanded on the 23rd May, 1945.

I wish to thank you for your very kind interest taken in the matters affecting the Health and Sanitation of the District. I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr. G. H. Wilkinson and other members of the Staff for their valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY M. JAMES,

M.D., D.P.H.

# GENERAL STATISTICS

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Population mid-1945 .....        | 8,162   |
| Acreage of District .....        | 3,266   |
| Number of inhabited houses ..... | 2,500   |
| Rateable Value .....             | £41,923 |
| Product of a Penny Rate .....    | £165    |

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS.

|                               | M.       | F.       | Totals    |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Live births—Legitimate ... .. | 69       | 59       | 128       |
| —Illegitimate ... ..          | 3        | 4        | 7         |
|                               | <hr/> 72 | <hr/> 63 | <hr/> 135 |

|                                | M. | F. | Total |
|--------------------------------|----|----|-------|
| Still births—Legitimate ... .. | 1  | 2  | 3     |
| —Illegitimate ... ..           | —  | —  | —     |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population—16.5

Live Birth Rate for England and Wales ... .. 16.1

Total Birth Rate (live and still) ... .. 21

Number of Still Births was 3 compared with 7 in 1944.

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 was 16.5 compared with 20.7 in 1944.

Total Number of Live Births during 1945 was 135 compared with 168 in 1944.

|                                      |     |      |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|
| Births : Mean of 5 years 1940-44 was | ... | 17.4 |
| Year 1944                            | ... | 20.5 |
| Year 1945                            | ... | 16.5 |
| Decrease on 5 years' average         | ... | 0.9  |
| Decrease in 1945 on 1944             | ... | 4.0  |

### DEATHS.

|                         | M. | F. | Total |
|-------------------------|----|----|-------|
| Number of Deaths ... .. | 67 | 46 | 113   |

Number of deaths was 113, 67 males and 46 females in 1945, compared with 76 in 1944.

The crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population was 13.8.

The adjusted death rate for 1944 cannot be given as the comparability factor is not available.

There were no deaths from Maternal Causes during 1945.

Therefore the total maternal mortality was nil for 1945.

|  |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Deaths from Cancer ... ..                    | ... | ... | 8   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..        | ... | ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. | ... | ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... .. | ... | ... | Nil |

**DEATH RATES :**

|                              |     |     |     |      |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| The mean of 5 years 1940-44  | ... | ... | ... | 11.9 |
| In 1944                      | ... | ... | ... | 9.3  |
| In 1945                      | ... | ... | ... | 13.8 |
| Increase on 5 years' average | ... | ... | ... | 1.9  |
| Increase in 1945 on 1944     | ... | ... | ... | 4.5  |

The following were causes of deaths:—

**CANCER.**—8 deaths occurred in 1945, compared with 11 in 1944. Death rate from Cancer per 1,000 of estimated population was 0.98.

|                          |     |     |     |      |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Mean of 5 years 1940-44  | ... | ... | ... | 1.39 |
| In 1944                  | ... | ... | ... | 1.34 |
| In 1945                  | ... | ... | ... | 0.98 |
| Decrease in 5 years      | ... | ... | ... | 0.41 |
| Decrease in 1945 on 1944 | ... | ... | ... | 0.36 |

**INFANTILE DEATHS.**—6 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age in 1945, 3 males and 3 females, all legitimate, compared with 6 in 1944.

Death rates of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births was 44. The rate for England and Wales was 46.

|                              |     |     |     |    |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| The mean of 5 years 1940-44  | ... | ... | ... | 45 |
| For 1944                     | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| For 1945                     | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| Decrease of 5 years' average | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Increase in 1945 on 1944     | ... | ... | ... | 9  |

**DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:—**

|   | Males |     | Females |
|---|-------|-----|---------|
| Pulmonary T.B. ....                           | —     | ... | 1       |
| Other Forms of T.B. ....                      | —     | ... | —       |
| Influenza ....                                | 2     | ... | 1       |
| Cancer, all sites ....                        | 4     | ... | 4       |
| Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ....           | 7     | ... | 6       |
| Heart Disease ....                            | 19    | ... | 13      |
| Other Diseases of the Circulatory Systems ... | 6     | ... | 3       |
| Bronchitis ....                               | 6     | ... | 5       |
| Pneumonia ....                                | 1     | ... | 2       |
| Nephritis ....                                | —     | ... | 2       |
| Diabetes ....                                 | 2     | ... | 1       |
| Other Digestive Diseases ....                 | —     | ... | 1       |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ....               | 1     | ... | —       |
| Appendicitis ....                             | 1     | ... | —       |
| Acute Infectious Encephalitis ....            | 1     | ... | —       |
| Premature Births ....                         | 1     | ... | —       |
| Congenital Malformation ....                  | 1     | ... | 1       |
| Road Traffic Accident ....                    | 2     | ... | —       |
| Other Violent Causes ....                     | 6     | ... | —       |
| All Other Causes ....                         | 7     | ... | 6       |
|   | 67    | ... | 46      |

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Infirmary for examination.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Arrangements have been made with the Fever Hospitals for the removal of patients to hospital by their ambulances.

Non-infectious and accident cases may obtain the Wigan County Borough Ambulances.

### HOSPITALS.

Arrangements have been made with the Wigan County Borough for the reception of cases of infectious diseases at Whelley Isolation Hospital at a cost varying from 9/- to 12/- per day, according to the disease, plus an ambulance charge of 15/-.

Arrangements with Blackburn Smallpox Hospital to take cases of Smallpox costs a retaining fee of £20 per annum.

General Hospital Facilities exist at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, and Public Assistance Hospitals at Billinge. The Lancashire County Council make arrangements for the admission of maternity cases to the Chorley and District Hospital and Chorley Eaves Lane Hospital. Maternity cases are also admitted to Billinge Hospital through the Public Assistance.

Arrangements have also been made with Leigh Joint Hospital Board to accept cases of typhus.

There are no Nursing Homes in the district.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

An infant Welfare Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, and is open every Wednesday afternoon. The Medical Officer of Health, in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, attends alternate Wednesdays, and is assisted by the County Council Health Visitor. Advice on feeding and general health of infants and toddlers is given. A member of the Food Office Staff also attends at the Clinic for the purpose of distributing Milk, Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices under the Government Scheme.

The Ante-Natal Clinic was commenced in January of this year, and the attendance has been very satisfactory. The Lancashire County Council Midwives attend these sessions. The Clinic is held alternate Mondays at 2.0 p.m.

One County Council Midwife resides in the district.

The County Council Health Visitor, who is also the School Nurse, undertakes the visiting of all newly-born infants in the district.

### THE WAR-TIME NURSERY.

We were sorry to lose the services of the Matron—Miss Edgar—who left the Nursery in November, also the Sister—Miss Tuttle—who left at the end of December. Miss Tuttle acted as Matron for a time until she herself left. A new Matron was appointed to commence duties on 1st January, 1946.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA. WATER.

The Council have their own plant for filtration and chlorination of water supplies, Bell's Mechanical Filters being used. The water for domestic and trade supply is purchased from Liverpool Corporation, and comes from the reservoir at Anglezarke, near Chorley; and a special industrial supply is purchased from Manchester Corporation and is supplied from Thirlmere. Before distribution in the district the domestic supply is filtered:—

alumina—1 gr. per gall.; soda ash—1 gr. per gall.; is then filtered and finally chlorinated.

The special industrial supply is distributed untreated, and both supplies are constant.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The water is a good soft Upland Surface Water in every way well suited for drinking and all domestic purposes.

Four samples of the treated water were taken during the year. The following table shows results of analysis:—

## ANALYSES OF WATER.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL.

|   | JAN.       | APR.       | JUNE | OCT. |
|---|------------|------------|------|------|
| Presumptive Coliform Count .....  |            |            |      |      |
| Total No. of B.Coli per 100 ml. ...   | Nil        | Nil        | Nil  | Nil  |
| Total No. of Colonies developing on<br>Agar after 48 hrs. at 37 C per 1.0 ml. | less       | less       |      |      |
| sample .....  | than<br>30 | than<br>30 | Nil  | Nil  |
| Total No. of Colonies developing on<br>Agar after 72 hrs. at 20 C per 1.0 ml. | less       |            |      |      |
| sample .....  | than<br>30 | 30         | Nil  | 1    |

## CHEMICAL (RESULTS PARTS/100,000)

|  |          |     |          |     |                 |     |                         |
|--|----------|-----|----------|-----|-----------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Total Solid matters in solution .....  | 9.60     | ... | 9.36     | ... | 9.12            | ... | 8.00                    |
| Oxygen required to oxidise in 15 mins. | 0.037    | ... | 0.021    | ... | 0.020           | ... | 0.22                    |
| (3 hrs.)                               | 0.071    | ... | 0.042    | ... | 0.037           | ... | 0.035                   |
| Ammonia .....                          | 0.001    | ... | 0.001    | ... | 0.001           | ... | 0.001                   |
| Ammonia from Organic matter .....      | 0.004    | ... | 0.004    | ... | 0.002           | ... | 0.002                   |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates .....             | None     |     | None     |     | Minute<br>Trace |     | None                    |
| Nitrogen as Nitrates .....             | None     |     | None     |     | None            |     | None                    |
| Combined Chlorine .....                | 1.40     | ... | 1.30     | ... | 1.25            | ... | 1.30                    |
| Total Hardness .....                   | 4.5      | ... | 4.5      | ... | 4.3             | ... | 4.3                     |
| Re-action to Litmus .....              | Alkaline |     | Alkaline |     | Alkaline        |     | Very<br>faintly<br>Acid |
| P.H. Value .....                       | 8.1      | ... | 9.0      | ... | 9.5             | ... | 6.7                     |

All samples were clear, very faintly yellow and colourless. They contained only a minute trace of suspended matter, which consisted of vegetable debris, hydrated oxide of iron and particles of siliceous matter.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses, with the exception of two cottages, which are dependent on springs.

## SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage system to which most houses in the district are connected.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road, and two sewage farms—at Fairhurst House and Langtree. Three of these are grossly overloaded

and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of the recent years. Further, they are dilapidated and require extensive repairs.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal system was in an advanced state of preparation at the outbreak of war. This is now under further consideration.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints have been received regarding the condition of these, but undoubtedly they are constantly polluted by the effluents from public and private sewage disposal systems. Here again, action must be delayed until the Council have re-organised their sewerage system.

### SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Except for the following all premises are supplied with water closets:—

|                     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Privy middens       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Privy cesspits      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Pail closets        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 71 |
| Trough closets      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Waste water closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2  |

There is a lack of Public Conveniences, and in particular in the Public Gardens of Ashfield House.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household and shop refuse is removed by the Council's own motor vehicles, and is disposed of by tipping.

There are approximately 2,500 movable ashbins which are emptied weekly. In addition, there are the privy middens, pail closets, etc., enumerated earlier in the report.

### SALVAGE.

The Salvage Campaign is still being carried out, but there has been a marked decrease in the amount collected.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year 273 shops inspections were carried out under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

## CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the area.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

General observations were made during the year, but no action was necessary.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the area.

## SCHOOLS.

A School Clinic is provided by the County Council at Ashfield House, Standish, for the treatment of Minor Ailments. I am pleased to report that the Clinic has been very well attended. Unfortunately, as yet, there is no Dental Clinic in the area. An Ophthalmic Surgeon attends the Clinic once a fortnight, and the attendance has been very satisfactory. The Clinic is open for these purposes as follows:—

Monday—9.30 a.m. to 12 noon : Medical Officer  
and Nurse attends.

Thursday—9.30 a.m. to 12 noon : Minor Ailments  
(Nurse only).

Friday—1.30 p.m. (fortnightly): Ophthalmic  
Clinic.

The Routine Medical Inspections of the children in the schools are carried out by the Medical Officer in her capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the School Teachers, and the School Attendance Officer; the latter supplies a weekly return of the school children who are absent from school through illness.

The County Council Health Visitor follows up the cases for whom the Medical Officer recommends treatment at the time of the School Inspection. The Nurse also visits the schools regularly for the purpose of Cleanliness Inspections, and also visits the parents to give advice to the cases in which the standard is unsatisfactory.

All the schools in the district are fairly old, but their general sanitary condition is satisfactory on the whole. All have ample main water supply.

Meals are provided at all schools in the district.

### SCHOOL CLOSURES.

It has not been found necessary to close any schools during the year.

### HOUSING.

A survey of all the working class property was made during the year. It has been carried out on the lines suggested by the Hobhouse Report on Rural Housing, and will give the Council some idea of existing Housing conditions. From the survey it was found that 295 families required re-housing, and 55 were found to house more than one family.

A more detailed report of the survey is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD. MILK SUPPLY.

All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops were inspected regularly during the year.

The standard of cleanliness is good, but a number of the cowsheds require serious constructional alterations, and properly equipped dairies are necessary in some cases.

A total of 161 visits and inspections were made.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

|                                     |     |     |      |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| No. of milk samples taken ...       | ... | ... | 56   |
| No. of milk samples positive ...    | ... | ... | 7    |
| Percentage positive ...             | ... | ... | 14.2 |
| No. of cows found secreting bacilli | ... | ... | 7    |
| No. of herds affected               | ... | ... | 7    |

The Veterinary Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries informs me that 8 cows from this district have been slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order during the year.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering has been done under Government Control. There are no Government slaughter-houses in the district, all meat being distributed from Wigan.

Periodical inspections of Meat and Foods exposed for sale in shops and on hawkers' carts have been carried out.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections have been made of these premises in the area, but no informal notices were served.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

173 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to the Department under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, compared with 72 in 1944.

There were 133 cases of measles, which was the most prevalent of the Infectious Diseases.

18 cases of Whooping-cough occurred during the year, 9 being at the Nursery. One case complicated by pneumonia was removed to Whelley Isolation Hospital.

There were 3 cases of diphtheria; 1 case was removed to the Isolation Hospital. One child had received the inoculations before he contracted diphtheria.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1945.

| Notifiable<br>Disease. | Total<br>Cases. | Under |            | YEARS |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | Deaths | Admitted<br>to Hospital |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|-------------------------|
|                        |                 | 1     | Under<br>1 | 1     | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 |        |                         |
| Scarlet Fever ...      | 16              | —     | —          | —     | —  | —  | —  | 11 | 4  | —  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —      | —                       |
| Diphtheria .....       | 3               | —     | —          | 1     | 1  | —  | —  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —      | 1                       |
| Measles .....          | 133             | 3     | 3          | 4     | 11 | 16 | 22 | 73 | 2  | —  | 2  | —  | —  | —  | —      | —                       |
| Whooping Cough.        | 18              | 6     | 6          | 6     | 2  | 3  | —  | 1  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —      | 1                       |
| Pneumonia .....        | 3               | —     | —          | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | 1  | —  | 2  | —  | —      | —                       |
| Chicken-pox .....      | 4               | —     | —          | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —  | —      | —                       |
| Totals .....           | 173             | 9     | 9          | 11    | 14 | 19 | 22 | 86 | 6  | —  | 4  | —  | 2  | —  | —      | 2                       |

# IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The immunisation of the children against Diphtheria was continued during the year 1945, and I am again able to report that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of the district. The campaign is still being pressed with vigour. School children are treated at the schools, with the co-operation of the Head Teachers, whilst the pre-school children are treated at the Clinic. The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agent used is Alum precipitated toxoid in doses of 0.2 C.C., followed by 0.5 C.C. a month later.

A third injection has been given to children who commenced school since the completion of the treatment.

## TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHEME IN JANUARY, 1941.

| Ages               | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | Total |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Under 1 year ..... | 4    | 1    | —    | 1    | 2    | 8     |
| 1 year .....       | 44   | 49   | 58   | 41   | 57   | 249   |
| 2 years .....      | 55   | 34   | 23   | 3    | 8    | 123   |
| 3 years .....      | 40   | 18   | 11   | 2    | 2    | 73    |
| 4 years .....      | 46   | 19   | 19   | 5    | 2    | 91    |
| 5 years .....      | 63   | 44   | 21   | 4    | 2    | 134   |
| 6 years .....      | 55   | 4    | 8    | 1    | 4    | 72    |
| 7 years .....      | 59   | 9    | 3    | 1    | 2    | 74    |
| 8 years .....      | 64   | 14   | 1    | —    | 2    | 81    |
| 9 years .....      | 49   | 22   | —    | —    | —    | 71    |
| 10 years .....     | 58   | 7    | —    | —    | —    | 65    |
| 11 years .....     | 61   | 14   | —    | —    | —    | 75    |
| 12 years .....     | 62   | 11   | 2    | —    | —    | 75    |
| 13 years .....     | 46   | 8    | —    | —    | —    | 54    |
| 14 years .....     | 3    | 3    | —    | —    | —    | 6     |
|                    | 709  | 257  | 146  | 58   | 81   | 1251  |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The Notifications received during the year under the Public Health Regulations (T.B.) 1930, were as follows:—

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

| Age Periods    | NEW CASES<br>Respiratory |    | Non-<br>Respiratory |    |     | DEATHS<br>Respiratory |    | Non-<br>Respiratory |    |
|----------------|--------------------------|----|---------------------|----|-----|-----------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Years          | M.                       | F. | M.                  | F. |     | M.                    | F. | M.                  | F. |
| 0 ...          | —                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 1 ...          | —                        | —  | 1                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 5 ...          | —                        | 1  | 2                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 10 ...         | —                        | —  | 1                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 15 ...         | —                        | —  | —                   | 1  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 20 ...         | —                        | 1  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 25 ...         | 1                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 35 ...         | —                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 45 ...         | 1                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | 1  | —                   | —  |
| 55 ...         | 1                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| 65 and upwards | —                        | —  | —                   | —  | ... | —                     | —  | —                   | —  |
| Totals         | 3                        | 2  | 4                   | 1  | ... | —                     | 1  | —                   | —  |

All cases were notified before death.

The County Council provide the facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Standish Urban District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own Doctor or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

Death rate from T.B. of the Respiratory System was 0.12.

Mean of 5 years, 1940-1945 ... .. 0.33

Year 1944 ... .. 0.12

Year 1945 ... .. 0.12

Decrease on 5 years' average ... .. 0.21

Previous year's death rate same as 1944.

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

“ Ashfield House,”

STANDISH.

March, 1946.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Bottomley and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1945.

It will be noted that adverse comments are made regarding houses, food premises, shops and farms. Wartime and present shortage of labour and materials has prevented any action being taken. I sincerely hope that 1946 will show some real improvement.

### DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS :

|   |     |     |                      |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|----------------------|-----|-----|
| Butchers' Premises                        | ... | 64  | Drainage Inspections | ... | 37  |
| Bakehouses                                | ... | 27  | Drain Tests          | ... | 11  |
| Dairies                                   | ... | 7   | Factories (mech.)    | ... | 40  |
| Farms                                     | ... | 161 | P.H.A. Workplaces    | ... | 27  |
| Milk Shops                                | ... | 50  | Shops' Acts          | ... | 273 |
| Ice Cream Factors                         | ... | 25  | Halls and Cinemas    | ... | 5   |
| Cafes and Eating Houses                   | 43  |     | Public Conveniences  | ... | 56  |
| British Restaurant                        | ... | 32  | Pigsties             | ... | 52  |
| Hawkers                                   | ... | 93  | School Lavatories    | ... | 15  |
| Other Food Premises                       | ... | 253 | Council Tips         | ... | 72  |
| Food Control Orders                       | ... | 387 | Water Courses        | ... | 65  |
| Inquiries re Infectious Diseases          | ... | 37  | Housing Survey       | ... | 437 |
| Investigation of complaints               | 320 |     | Rodent Control       | ... | 164 |
| Re-inspection of Notices                  | ... | 439 | Sundry Visits        | ... | 124 |
| No. of complaints received and dealt with | ... | ... |                      | ... | 112 |
| No. of Informal Notices served            | ... | ... |                      | ... | 213 |

### STATUTORY NOTICES :

|                          | Served | Complied | In default |
|--------------------------|--------|----------|------------|
| Defective drains         | 5      | 5        | —          |
| Defective water closets  | 1      | 1        | —          |
| Defective passages       | 1      | —        | —          |
| Choked Water Course      | 1      | —        | —          |
| Sec. 93, def. roof, etc. | 9      | 2        | —          |
| Dust bins                | 29     | 12       | 4          |

The 13 outstanding Notices under the last item were served during December.

### DETAILS OF DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND.

#### Dampness.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Defective roofs ... ..                           | 59 |
| Defective gutters and<br>spouts ... ..           | 31 |
| Defective walls (includ-<br>ing pointing) ... .. | 4  |
| Defective windows ... ..                         | 9  |
| Other causes ... ..                              | 13 |

#### Other structural Defects.

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Defective floors ... ..       | 7  |
| Defective walls (int.) ... .. | 5  |
| Defective plaster ... ..      | 19 |
| Defective ceilings ... ..     | 5  |
| Defective windows ... ..      | 18 |
| Defective fireplaces ... ..   | 3  |
| Dry rot ... ..                | 5  |
| Others ... ..                 | 2  |

#### Nuisances.

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Accumulations ... ..       | 5  |
| Lack of Cleanliness ... .. | 5  |
| Others ... ..              | 14 |

#### Drains and Sanitary Fittings.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Choked drains ... ..                                | 8  |
| Defective drains ... ..                             | 8  |
| Defective sink or waste<br>pipe ... ..              | 7  |
| Disconnection of surface<br>water from sewer ... .. | 4  |
| Defective water closets ..                          | 25 |
| Insuff. sanitary accom-<br>modation ... ..          | 3  |
| Conversion of privy<br>middens to pails ... ..      | 2  |

#### Sundry.

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Defective dust bins ... ..          | 85 |
| Defective yard paving ... ..        | 3  |
| Defective washing<br>boilers ... .. | 8  |
| Defective ovens ... ..              | 5  |
| Burst Water Pipes ... ..            | 5  |
| Rats and Mice ... ..                | 17 |
| Others ... ..                       | 4  |

Although it is mere repetition, it must be noted that owners were faced with difficulties in getting work done within a reasonable period; but some slight improvement was noted towards the end of the year.

### HOUSING.

A survey of the working class property in the district was completed during the year. Herewith is a brief summary of the report given previously:—

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| No. of houses inspected in detail ... ..                      | 412 |
| No. proposed to be included in clearance area ... ..          | 240 |
| No. proposed to be dealt with as individual unfit ... ..      | 15  |
| No. requiring major repairs and provision of modern amenities | 142 |

(A further 432 houses, not inspected in detail, required repairs and amenities).

|  |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. having two families residing therein ... | ... | ... | ... | 51  |
| No. having three families residing therein   | ... | ... | ... | 4   |
| No. overcrowded ...                          | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| No. of back-to-back houses                   | ... | ... | ... | 7   |
| No. of families to be re-housed ...          | ... | ... | ... | 295 |
| No. of persons to be re-housed ...           | ... | ... | ... | 884 |

Of the above houses, 52 are in such a poor state that their tenants must be given priority in any scheme of slum clearance and re-housing.

From this survey it can be stated that the average working class house in the district suffers from the following:—

Rising dampness; lack of constant hot water and bath, defective flagged floors, sinks, and staircases; lack of proper food store; unpaved and undrained common yard and passage; unsatisfactory sink drainage; insufficient light and ventilation to water closet.

The standard of cleanliness was above the average, only 5 houses being found in a dirty condition.

In order to assist local authorities to improve the working class property, it is essential that certain legal standards should be laid down in regard to structure and amenities. In particular, a fixed bath, hot water supply, separate washing accommodation and a convenient and impervious dust bin stance should be insisted upon.

Of the 2,600 houses in the district, approximately 1,800 are working class property or occupied by the working class. Of these 1,000 are pre-1914 and 400 Council houses; approximately 900 have modern amenities and are in good condition.

Rents charged for similar types of working class houses varied considerably, and the following examples are of interest:—

| No. of Rooms               |        | Lowest rent per |      | Highest rent per |       |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|------|------------------|-------|
|                            |        | week inc. rates |      | week inc. rates  |       |
|                            |        | s.              | d.   | s.               | d.    |
| 3 rooms and scullery       | ...    | ...             | 5 0  | ...              | 12 0  |
| 4 rooms                    | ... .. | ...             | 7 1  | ...              | 12 6  |
| 4 rooms and scullery       | ...    | ...             | 6 0  | ...              | 12 1  |
| 4 rooms, scullery and bath | ...    | ...             | 8 6  | ...              | 16 3* |
| 5 rooms                    | ... .. | ...             | 5 9  | ...              | 12 7  |
| 5 rooms and scullery       | ...    | ...             | 5 1  | ...              | 13 0  |
| 6 rooms                    | ... .. | ...             | 8 5  | ...              | 10 0  |
| 6 rooms and scullery       | ...    | ...             | 7 10 | ...              | 12 3  |

Except for the one marked \* all these rents are being charged for houses which, in my opinion, are unfit for human habitation, and not capable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Only infestations of a minor character were found, and the source in each case was adjacent farm land. Secondary treatment of the sewers found no infestation.

### KEEPING OF ANIMALS.

Twenty-eight pigsties were in use during the year, and no complaints were received. A number of them are not of a suitable standard, and these will now have to be re-constructed.

Innumerable families are keeping poultry, even on their own doorsteps; but due to the food situation and lack of complaints no action, other than advisory, has been taken.

### SHOPS' ACTS.

Of the 125 shops in the district only 28 employ assistants; young persons are employed at 8 shops.

Inspections of a routine character have been carried out. Sec. 10 of the Shops' Act, 1934, is not being complied with, particularly in regard to separate sanitary conveniences, heating and facilities for meals.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Serious flooding occurred in the vicinity of the Almond Brook due to collapse of the banks and deposits of refuse. The work of clearance is now proceeding. There is a certain amount of pollution of streams, with both private and public sewage.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

There is a decided lack of these in the district. Urinals only are provided at the Wheatsheaf corner and Langtree Lane; the latter cannot be called satisfactory due to the absence of an automatic flush. Further conveniences are necessary in the centre of the township, Boar's Head area and Standish Lower Ground. Particular emphasis is laid on the fact that there is a total absence of conveniences for females.

Ashfield garden and grounds are a popular resort in the Summer months, the great majority of the visitors being mothers with young children. Easily accessible sanitary conveniences are urgently needed, and the Council's attention is particularly drawn to this matter.

## SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

### Food Retailing and Preparing Premises:—

|                    |     |     |    |               |     |     |   |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|---------------|-----|-----|---|
| General Shops      | ... | ... | 13 | Confectioners | ... | ... | 5 |
| Grocers            | ... | ... | 32 | Bakehouses    | ... | ... | 6 |
| Butchers           | ... | ... | 11 | Cafes         | ... | ... | 6 |
| Greengrocers       | ... | ... | 3  | Canteens      | ... | ... | 9 |
| Fishmongers        | ... | ... | 2  | Fishfriers    | ... | ... | 3 |
| Butcher-cum-Grocer | ... | ... | 1  | Sweets only   | ... | ... | 2 |

### Registered or Licensed Persons and Premises:—

|   |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Slaughterhouses (closed)                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
| Ice-cream manufacturers                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Storage of fish, fruit, vegetables                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Hawkers of fish, fruit, vegetables (only 9 found trading) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| Registered under F. and D. A., 1938, Sec. 14 (1) (b)      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |

All meat retailed in the district is distributed from Wigan. Forty-five pigs were slaughtered under Ministry of Food licences by pig-keepers; all were inspected after slaughter and no evidence of serious disease was found.

All the slaughterhouses were inspected in detail and a report submitted in November. Only one approaches reasonable standard. Unfortunately, there has not so far been any lead given by the Government as to the future position of private slaughterhouses. For a small district such as this one good slaughterhouse would be more than sufficient.

The following amounts of foodstuffs were voluntary surrendered as unsound:—

|               |     |         |            |     |     |     |         |
|---------------|-----|---------|------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Boneless beef | ... | 30 lbs. | Tea        | ... | ... | ... | 16 lbs. |
| Corned beef   | ... | 12 lbs. | Cheese     | ... | ... | ... | 7 lbs.  |
| Luncheon meat | ... | 20 lbs. | Fish Cakes | ... | ... | ... | 20 lbs. |
| Butter        | ... | ...     | ...        | ... | ... | ... | 48 lbs. |

Total weight, 207 lbs.

The food shops, although kept in a reasonably clean condition, are not in all cases up to the standard required by the F. and D. A., 1938. This is particularly so in respect of hot water supply, washing and food storage facilities.

### SAMPLING.

I am indebted to the County Sanitary Officer for the following information regarding samples taken under the F. and D. Act, 1938, within the district:—

Fourteen samples, including one of milk, were taken during the year, all of which were genuine.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

|                                |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Milk producers on register     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| including Accredited producers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Milk purveyors on register     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46 |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| including local producer-retailers ... ..                | 18              |
| retailers from outside district ... ..                   | 5               |
| dairymen ... ..  | 1               |
| purveyors at general shops (only 7 at present retailing) | 22              |
| Accredited retailers ... ..                              | 4               |
| Pasteurised milk retailers ... ..                        | 2               |
| Pasteurised milk supplementary licences ... ..           | 3               |
| Accredited milk supplementary licences ... ..            | 1               |
| Approximate number of cows kept in district ... ..       | 460             |
| Approximate yield of milk for year ... ..                | 200,000 gallons |

Twenty samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue and B. Coli tests. Of these 10 failed, the reason being in each case traced to insufficient sterilisation of the equipment. Follow-up samples were found satisfactory.

Fifty-six samples were submitted for examination for the detection of B. Tuberculosis. Seven of these were positive, affecting seven herds.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer states that eight cows from this area were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

In general, the structural condition of the shippons and dairies required modernising, and there is a decided lack of hot water and efficient sterilisation.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Eight men and two vehicles are employed on this service full-time, which has shown further advances in efficiency. Except when the department has been disrupted by breakdowns or sickness a weekly collection of refuse and pails has been maintained. Complaints have been practically nil, for which the Council can congratulate themselves.

Sickness caused a loss of 186 working days during the year.

Controlled tipping has been carried out at four sites without nuisance or complaint.

The following are details of dry refuse removed:—

| <i>Vehicle</i> | <i>No. of Loads</i> | <i>Weight</i> |    |    |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------|----|----|
|                |                     | T.            | C. | Q. |
| S. & D. ...    | 409 ...             | 1370          | 16 | 3  |
| Scammell ...   | 516 ...             | 670           | 11 | 1  |
|                |                     | <hr/>         |    |    |
|                |                     | 2041          | 8  | 0  |
|                |                     | <hr/>         |    |    |

Salvage has shown a further decrease, but there was an excess of £150 income over expenditure on this service.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE H. WILKINSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Public Cleansing Officer.





